



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YAC)

January 21, 2021

Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Nakagawa	- City Council Representative
Shawn Lichtmann	- Co-Chair, NWSS Representative
Tony Jiang	- NWSS Representative
Roshaad Rodney	- NWSS Representative
Nelson Roy	- NWSS Representative
Julia Mosi	- NWSS Representative

NON-VOTING MEMBERS REGRETS:

Bruce Cunnings	- SD#40 Representative
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STAFF PRESENT:

Jay Young	- Manager, Recreation Services
Silisha Ali	- Youth Services Coordinator
Nicole Ludwig	- Assistant City Clerk
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Councillor Nakagawa Chair the January 21, 2021 meeting of the Youth Advisory Committee.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 Additions to and adoption of the Agenda of January 21, 2021

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the agenda of the January 21, 2021 Youth Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of February 27, 2020

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the February 27, 2020 Youth Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Ice Breaker

Silisha Ali, Youth Services Coordinator, asked Committee members to introduce themselves and share what they have been up to, positive things and challenges they have experienced during the pandemic, how they are enjoying the new New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS), and anything else they would like to share. Responses included:

Positives:

- Adopted two kittens;
- Self growth, reflected on what is important;
- Became a better cook;
- Received driver's licence prior to everything closing down;
- Not having to spend the whole day in school and working at one's own pace;
- Started forestry major at the University of British Columbia (UBC);
- Commenced computer science classes at college; and,
- A lot of walking and running in the community which has resulted in more of a connection with nature.

Challenges:

- Online school can be difficult to keep up with, teachers harder to communicate with, and lack of in-person interaction; and,
- COVID bubble is too small.

The Recently Opened New Westminster Secondary School:

Committee members noted that the recently opened NWSS is very nice with a great modern look; however, the openness of the glass walls takes some getting used to.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Chair for Next Youth Advisory Committee Meeting

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Julia Mosi Chair the next Youth Advisory Committee meeting.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion

5.2 Pink Shirt Day Proclamation

Silisha Ali, Youth Services Coordinator, reminded members of the Annual Pink Shirt Day proclamation by Council and outlined two ways to have the proclamation acknowledged by Council including (1) attending the February 1, 2021 Council meeting together as a delegation or, (2) requesting that Council read aloud a written statement provided by the Committee at a Council meeting later in the month.

Discussion ensued and all Committee members present opted to attend the February 1, 2021 Council meeting via Zoom to speak with Council about the initiative. Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, will forward meeting details to Committee members and organize the delegation's request to speak, and Silisha will schedule a meeting to create a script for that evening.

5.3 BC Youth Parliament

Julia Mosi, Committee Member, thanked staff and Council for assisting with her application and sponsoring her seat on the BC Youth Parliament (BCYP), noting

that she and Tony Jiang, who is also a part of the BCYP, are the only two representatives from New Westminster out of 97 participants from around British Columbia. Ms. Mosi outlined various aspects of participating in the BCYP, including:

- Participation is a year long commitment which usually involves going to Victoria; however, due to the pandemic, proceedings are taking place virtually with some days running as long as 12 hours;
- Members work on legislation to pass bills meant to assist organizations, debate important issues, hold fundraisers, etc.;
- During this interesting and educational experience, participants learn how to make and pass motions, how to read resolutions, etc.
- Dr. Bonnie Henry, the Provincial Health Officer, acted as the BCYP's Lieutenant Governor during one of the Zoom calls; and,
- High school students can apply to sit on a Regional Youth Parliament which are held across the Province.

Committee members were welcomed to contact Ms. Mosi and Mr. Jiang if they had any questions about the BCYP.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Council Report

Councillor Nakagawa provided an update on what Council has been working on, including:

- Continuation of Council and other meetings throughout the pandemic via online platforms as well as reassignment of some staff during the lockdown;
- Projects such as the Streets for People & Cool Streets Initiatives which allow for necessary pandemic-related physical distancing while also addressing the climate emergency;
- Facilitating different avenues of engagement with residents on the 2021 budget to ensure that the City's priorities align with what is heard from the community;
- Working with Fraser Health on a Health Contact Centre (HCC) which, amongst other things, will provide health services and a supervised consumption site in the City;
- Public engagement including the recently launched Be Heard New West platform which allows people to learn about, provide comments, and ask questions about various city projects; and,
- Committee members were reminded that Council wants to receive feedback and suggestions on any topic from people of all ages;

6.2 Youth Coordinator's Report

Silisha Ali, Youth Services Coordinator,

- The Leaders in Training program is starting up again and those interested should contact Ms. Ali directly; and,
- Youth Services continues to run a lot of programs; however, as attendance is lacking due to youth being unaware of the programs offered, Committee members were urged to spread the word.

6.3 Member Reports

Members provided the following announcements:

- Post-secondary school is interesting but it can be stressful;
- Looking forward to starting a cooking class in the next school quarter;
- Excited to be turning 18 and being able to vote;
- Challenges encountered in transitioning from high school to university include the heavy load and trying to get involved in other groups;
- The Rotary Club is holding a pet showcase on Instagram with proceeds going to benefit PADs; and,
- Awaiting responses on applications submitted to the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, and the University of Victoria.

7.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed _____
Nadine Nakagawa
Councillor

Original Signed _____
Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk